

## Class sizes grow with layoffs, cuts

AARON YEO  
News Staff

To remedy last year's \$59 million budget gap, the University of Alberta has reduced staff, causing an increase in class sizes and a decrease in course selection.

As of September 16, there have been 48 staff members laid off, while 182 have left after taking the Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program.

Provost and Vice President (Academic) Carl Amrhein explained that the administration worked closely with the staff who were affected.

"We are a people business," Amrhein said. "It's rare for someone to be let go involuntarily. It's not something we do lightly. It's emotionally difficult and we take a very intense, hands-on approach to these things."

Twenty-eight staff were reassigned and given new positions within the university.

"Every person that received an involuntary layoff notice had the option to try to find something else," Amrhein said. "There was no single process — it was highly customized at the individual level. We were there every step of the way."

He noted that the reactions from staff who were laid off varied greatly.

"There are some for whom this is a devastating event. There are others that [said] 'I'll take my severance; I was getting ready anyway, that's fine.'"

However, Amrhein acknowledged the drawbacks of laying off staff, which reduces the amount of available course sections for students.

"We know some students are struggling with their time schedules, because they didn't get their section of choice; it's either earlier or later and that disrupts travel plans, work commitments and family obligations," he said.

While enrolment increased this year by 5.7 per cent, registration only increased by two per cent, which Amrhein recognizes as a sign that students are "hedging" for courses: signing up for more classes than they plan to actually keep after the add-drop deadline last Tuesday.

"We kept some funds so that if a faculty started seeing great enrolment pressure in a particular course, we were able to provide funding to open another section."

Amrhein is pleased with the progress the university has made so far in improving the financial situation since the fiscal year started on April 1 and said that by March of next year, the institution should be "in much better shape."

To make up for fewer staff, professors, like Peter James Lee from the Department of Psychology, were faced with more students to teach.

"We have been obliged to cut back on the number of sections quite dramatically," Lee said.

Coupled with the increase in enrolment from last year, many class sizes have increased. Lee teaches an introductory psychology course, one of the largest, in CCIS, the only building on campus capable of holding the demanding class sizes. But Lee feels that teaching 475 students in CCIS hasn't affected the quality of experience in classes.

PLEASE SEE **LAYOFFS** ♦ PAGE 3



AARON YEO

**SUCK ON THIS** Primus frontman Les Claypool and an inflatable astronaut look on during the Oddity Faire tour at Edmonton Event Centre Monday night.

## By-election fills vacant seats on Council, GFC

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE  
Senior News Editor

Most of the seats on Students' Council and the General Faculties Council (GFC) are now filled following the September by-elections held last Thursday and Friday.

Students' Council now has five new councillors and the GFC has four new members. There are still two seats open on Students' Council — one in Open Studies because no one ran for the position, and one in Science because the previous councillor holding that position dropped out after the deadline passed for others to run in the election.

Chief Returning Officer Jaskaran Singh said that the spots on council and in GFC will have to remain vacant.

There were 370 ballots cast, which represented a turnout of 2.07 per cent of the voting population — a number that only includes students in the faculties that had vacancies. This was lower than

last year's turnout of 2.7 per cent, but Singh was still pleased with the results since he didn't take the position of CRO until August, while the CRO is usually hired at the start of spring semester.

**"It wasn't going to be a perfect election and the best we could hope for was just to fill the seats."**

JASKARAN SINGH  
CHIEF RETURNING OFFICER

"All things considered, I was fairly happy. There were a lot of people that didn't have information about the by-election, but I think I realized quickly — because I took this position fairly late — I think I realized that it wasn't going to be

a perfect election and the best we could hope for was just to fill the seats," Singh said.

Singh said that because the September by-elections are to fill seats, it makes sense that they aren't given the same priority as the March elections.

"In the March elections, there's so much more planning and a lot more of Students' Union resources are utilized towards that," he said. "It's understandable that it's of a lower priority, but that being said, we still want to fill in the seats and have a sufficient voting block on GFC and good representation on Students' Council."

Singh added that he was happy with the number of people who went directly to the SU website to vote without the need for polling stations.

"I believe it was maybe 16 people who went to the polling stations and the rest were all online. But it was still important to have the polling stations out there as just a symbol of solidarity, to show that there are elections going on."

ALSO SEE **COMMENTARY** ♦ PAGE 7

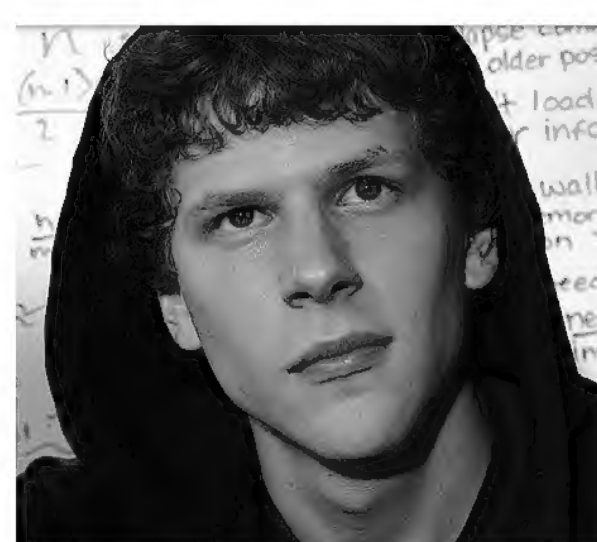
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THIS  
ISSUE**



### Face the outage

Is it that big a deal the popular social networking site went down for two-and-a-half hours? No, get a life.

OPINION, PAGE 6



### By the book

Andrew Jeffrey argues that *The Social Network* is proof that films adapted from books deserve respect.

A&E, PAGE 10



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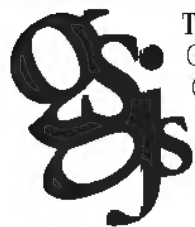
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# Lewis praises UN agencies, Millennium goals

SIWEI CHEN  
News Staff

Students should become engaged in global citizenship and civil society, said Canadian activist Stephen Lewis in a speech last Friday at the University of Alberta.

"Those of us who are still able to function and take positions and be engaged in international development, we have to do it with ever greater energy," Lewis said.

Lewis, a Companion of the Order of Canada, spoke at a conference organized by the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation (ACGC).

Lewis is a former Canadian politician and ambassador to the United Nations. He still holds much regard for the United Nations agencies working on the ground, directly helping people and making change.

"All of the issues [of the General Assembly and Security Council] elicit strong debates and engagement, but result in resolutions that are never implemented, that never get anywhere and induce [...] a kind of skepticism in the body politic, which is most unfortunate," Lewis said. "But what rescues the UN is the work of the agencies on the ground. [These are] the projects changing the lives people lead."

According to Lewis, the Canadian government is cutting off funding for important global initiatives.

"Here we have a country which is drawing back support for civil society. The Canadian Council on International Co-operation had its funding cut by the federal government in an entirely



SIWEI CHEN

**BRIGHT LIGHT** Although critical of the Canadian government, Lewis was optimistic that youth can make a difference.

draconian and destructive way. So too [did other] NGOs that had been funded by previous administrations for a considerable period of time; suddenly they lose the resources. It's so extraordinarily irresponsible and damaging," Lewis said.

Lewis spent the rest of his speech describing the UN's eight Millennium Development Goals: ending poverty and hunger, providing universal education, promoting gender equality, increasing child health, increasing maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, promoting environmental stability, and enhancing global partnership.

Throughout his presentation, Lewis

heavily emphasized the part gender inequality has to play in perpetuating many of the other issues the UN wishes to solve.

"There's no country that has gender equality. But in the developing world, it's staggering what we visit upon the women. Because this is such a male-dominated complex internationally, it's really important that struggle for gender equality is seen for what it is: the most important struggle on the planet."

Problems like education for children are slowly improving; however, girls are overwhelmingly disadvantaged for placement in secondary school simply because of their gender, he noted. Lewis also added

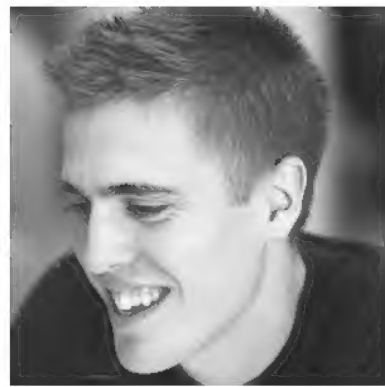
that the AIDS pandemic can be curtailed through a reduction in sexual violence.

Lewis advocated for students and the youth of society to engage in the issues addressed by the Millennium Development Goals.

"People say cynically and with a gross degree of stupidity that there isn't a place for youth in this world, [when the] world is so feted with stupidity among its political leaders. There is no right in this world to consign [youth] to some kind of catastrophe down the road, and then to deny them the voice that may avoid it. That's why engaging youth is so important and such an imperative."

## STREETERS

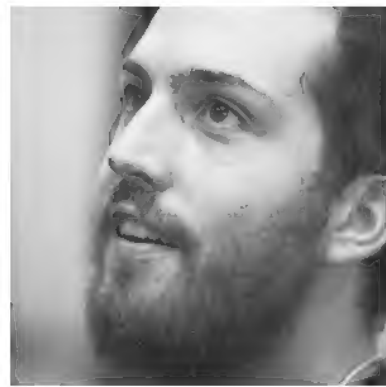
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Education IV

I usually show up for things. I'm pretty reliable. If I write it in my planner, yes. [You never skip work?] I need money. I wouldn't miss it.

If it's like birthdays at the bar, then I'll click "attending" [on Facebook] and then be like, "Sorry, my grandma's in town now." I'll make excuses, but there is warning ahead of time.

Today. [What was that?] Class. I slept in a little bit and the powerpoints are online, so I'll just read it tonight.

Class. I'm not supposed to skip, but I do.

More than six million people descend upon Munich every year to take part in Oktoberfest. To better understand this beer-consuming phenomenon, we are going undercover to drink significant quantities of beer. Check The Gateway next Tuesday for our feature on Oktoberfest and different German brews you can celebrate with.

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SAM BROOKS

# More university bursaries to be offered to students next year

STEPHEN GRIFFITH  
News Writer

The University of Alberta Bursaries and Emergency Funding (UBEF) department will be able to provide up to 42 new student bursaries for next year, thanks to an increase in private donations.

UBEF is responsible for issuing emergency bursaries, supplementary bursaries, and emergency loans to students each year.

U of A Director of Campus Development Robert Campbell explained that the additional supplementary bursaries are due to the unprecedented \$3 million in donations already received for this year. This number includes two endowed gifts that are exceptionally large.

Details on the new endowments are scarce as they have yet to be formally announced, but Campbell was able

to say that “one of the gifts is from a family and the other was a bequest,” a donation made to the university as a part of someone’s will.

The impetus for this recent injection of funds into student aid is not from a directed fundraising effort, but from the donors themselves.

“We have never had enough money to cover the student’s reported financial shortfall.”

RACHEL DE LEON  
UBEF PROGRAM CO-ORDINATOR

Rachel de Leon, the program co-ordinator for UBEF, believes the donations are more than good fortune.

She says that they will contribute to

narrowing the gap between available funding and student need.

“We have never had enough money to cover the student’s reported financial shortfall,” she said.

It appears that the donations have not been the only positive development for student funding, according to Assistant Dean of Students Cheryl Luchkow.

“During this university budget year, there were no decreases to bursary funding,” she said. Luchkow believes that the decision to maintain funding in a year of heavy cuts is a sign of serious commitment to student financial support.

The increase in donations has also enabled an increase in the bursary cap from \$2,000 to \$3,000, so not only will more individual bursaries be issued, but those bursaries may have the capacity to pay out at a higher maximum rate than in years past.

## campus digest

Compiled by Alex Eldridge

### CELEBRATING OUR TEACHERS

September 24 marked the University of Alberta’s 15th annual Celebration of Teaching and Learning, an event which recognizes both academic and non-academic staff for their contributions to teaching at the university.

Two professors were granted the title of Distinguished Professor of the Year — Lorne Tyrell, who discovered a therapy for hepatitis B in the 1980s, and Gary Lopaschuk. Both researchers teach in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.

A Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship is also awarded at the CTL. This year’s recipient was Barbara Milmine, who is pursuing a doctorate in sociology. Milmine is going to use her scholarship to study Canadian Aboriginal policy.

More than 300 scholarship winners are honoured at the CTL.

### JOBS, JOBS EVERYWHERE

CAPS held their annual career fair on September 21 in the Pavilion, welcoming almost 200 employers to campus. The Career Fair is a chance for students to meet potential employers that they may want to pursue following graduation.

CAPS will be holding faculty-specific career fairs, such as an Arts Career Fair, a Health Sciences Career Fair, and an Education Career Fair, later in the year.

### ROYAL RECOGNITION

Three U of A professors were inducted into the Royal Society of Canada earlier in September. They were nominated for scholarly and scientific achievement. Researcher Chris Le, who studies the effects of environmental toxins, and cardiologist Paul Armstrong were recognized, along with lipid researcher David Brindley.

The RSC was founded in 1882 and is a group of scholars, artists, and scientists that have intellectually contributed to Canada. The RSC consists of 2,000 individuals who have made significant contributions to academia.

### WELCOME HOME

Last weekend marked Homecoming Weekend for U of A alumni who came back to visit their old campus.

As part of the celebration, there were a variety of events hosted between September 22 and 26 including the Alumni Horizon Awards and Pecha Kucha night held in CCIS at which President Indira Samarasekera presented. There was also a Dinner and Dance held at the Edmonton Exposition Centre, and a Green and Gold breakfast on Sunday at which 2010 Olympic gold medalist and U of A alumnus Marc Kennedy spoke. On Sunday night, the University Symphony played in Convocation Hall to mark the end of the weekend.

## Cuts cause reduced variety in classes

LAYOFFS ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

However, Lee isn’t as happy with the cutbacks, and feels the university isn’t handling the situation properly.

“For me, as a seasonal instructor, I find I’m on Employment Insurance two months this year. So I spend two months a year on EI, and yet I still have furlough days. For me, that’s an insult.”

“My current course is worth about a quarter of a million dollars in tuition fees. Out of that \$250,000, the University can’t find \$2,000 a month to keep me employed over the summer for two months.”

Students’ Union Vice President (Academic) James Eastham is pleased with the university’s budgeting.

“I think the university had to make some tough decisions,” he said. “Obviously, in the ideal world, there would have been no gap to fill in the first place.”

“I think they’ve made these decisions in a way that they’ve tried to minimize the impact as much as possible. I think for the most part, they’ve done a pretty good job.”

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# U of A discovery links protein with MS-like symptoms

MATT HIRJI  
Sports Editor

An inadvertent discovery made by a University of Alberta researcher may provide the crucial link for a solution to diseases such as multiple sclerosis.

Allison Kraus, a doctorate student in biochemistry at the U of A, along with her supervisor Marek Michalak, led an international study that began with a curious question: what would happen if a protein molecule, calnexin, were disabled in mice? The behaviour that resulted in the mice was similar to patients suffering from MS — a breakthrough for the scientific community who had never considered that calnexin directly impacted the organization of myelin sheath, and therefore, motor functions.

Myelin sheath, the coating around your neurons, allows nerves to operate at a quick enough rate for the body to execute motor functions such as walking and talking. When the myelin sheath is impaired, nerve signals often travel slower and individuals experience mobility issues, such as trouble walking and difficulty executing basic movements.

While previous studies have focused on the myelin protein, which acts as a velcro to keep the myelin organized and functioning correctly, the U of A study has identified that calnexin is a precursor to the development of this protein and thus integral to the functioning of myelin.

"This molecule is important for every system in the body, but it seems to have a very specific effect on myelin. That was really surprising and nobody had seen it before. Because it



MATT HIRJI

**MYELIN MENDING** Kraus was part of the team that discovered the role of the protein calnexin in developing myelin, which is crucial for motor function.

helps other proteins form, it ends up being upstream of a lot of things," Kraus said.

"We like to call it curiosity-driven research. We basically didn't know what was going to happen when we removed a molecule from our model," Kraus said. "We interrupted the gene by removing a molecule and to our surprise, we generated lab models that had mobility issues. When we looked

into why this was happening it was because their myelin sheath around the nerves is very disorganized and very loosely compacted — a characteristic similar to patients suffering from MS."

The identification of calnexin as integral to the functioning of myelin, and subsequently motor functionality, may lead to a cure for myelin diseases.

"Because people have never thought of the gene that we identified as having any role in myelin, it's never been looked at, so now we have another avenue to explore the mechanisms. If in people we see mutations on a genetic level, this could lead to therapies that are targeted at this molecule in particular. It could change the current therapies or interventions and lead to new

treatments," Kraus said.

Kraus added that specifically for a complex disease such as MS, this discovery could have major significance.

"This could impact people with myelin diseases in cases where they haven't even been named yet. We are just starting to understand the underlying mechanism of myelin. When we understand something, we can take steps to fix it."

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## Maclean's cover not worth controversy

THE OBSESSION THAT PEOPLE HAVE WITH getting deeply offended over political criticism is illogical at the best of times. In the most recent case of *Maclean's* magazine's cover for their October 4 edition, it seems that the only people who are really offended are politicians hoping to capitalize on a completely manufactured media circus.

Last week, *Maclean's* ran a cover story with an illustration of Bonhomme Carnaval, the snowman mascot of Quebec's famous winter festival, waddling towards the reader with a big smile and a briefcase overflowing with cash, next to the words, "The most corrupt province in Canada" in big block letters. The story inside discussed the various corruption scandals that have plagued Quebec, such as the sponsorship scandal and the more recent furor over judicial appointments, where a former justice minister has claimed that he was asked by Quebec Premier Jean Charest to appoint judges chosen by provincial Liberal party fundraisers.

Naturally, Quebec politicians jumped at the opportunity to denounce the cover, with New Democrat MP Thomas Mulcair calling it "a deliberate attack on Quebec" and Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe unable to constrain his contempt for the illustration.

"Unfortunately, this attack is representative of a belief widely held in Canada that Quebec is racist, corrupt, and always looking for a handout," Duceppe said. "It appears that the only group in Canada that can be singled out in this way, the only group that can be insulted, is Quebecers."

While the *Maclean's* article focuses on real incidents of corruption within Quebec's political culture, what's more revealing from Duceppe's comments is that he doesn't think other groups are ever accused of being "corrupt and [...] looking for a handout." He trivializes the very real racism felt by not only First Nations people, but also immigrants and refugees such as the recent Tamil arrivals in British Columbia. By complaining about being singled out in such a way, he ignores or disregards that other groups have had it worse — if you can even buy his preposterous proposition that an article that deals with political corruption is somehow supposed to be a targeted attack on the people of Quebec. Seeing such an attack in an image of a snowman with a briefcase of money is incredibly imaginative.

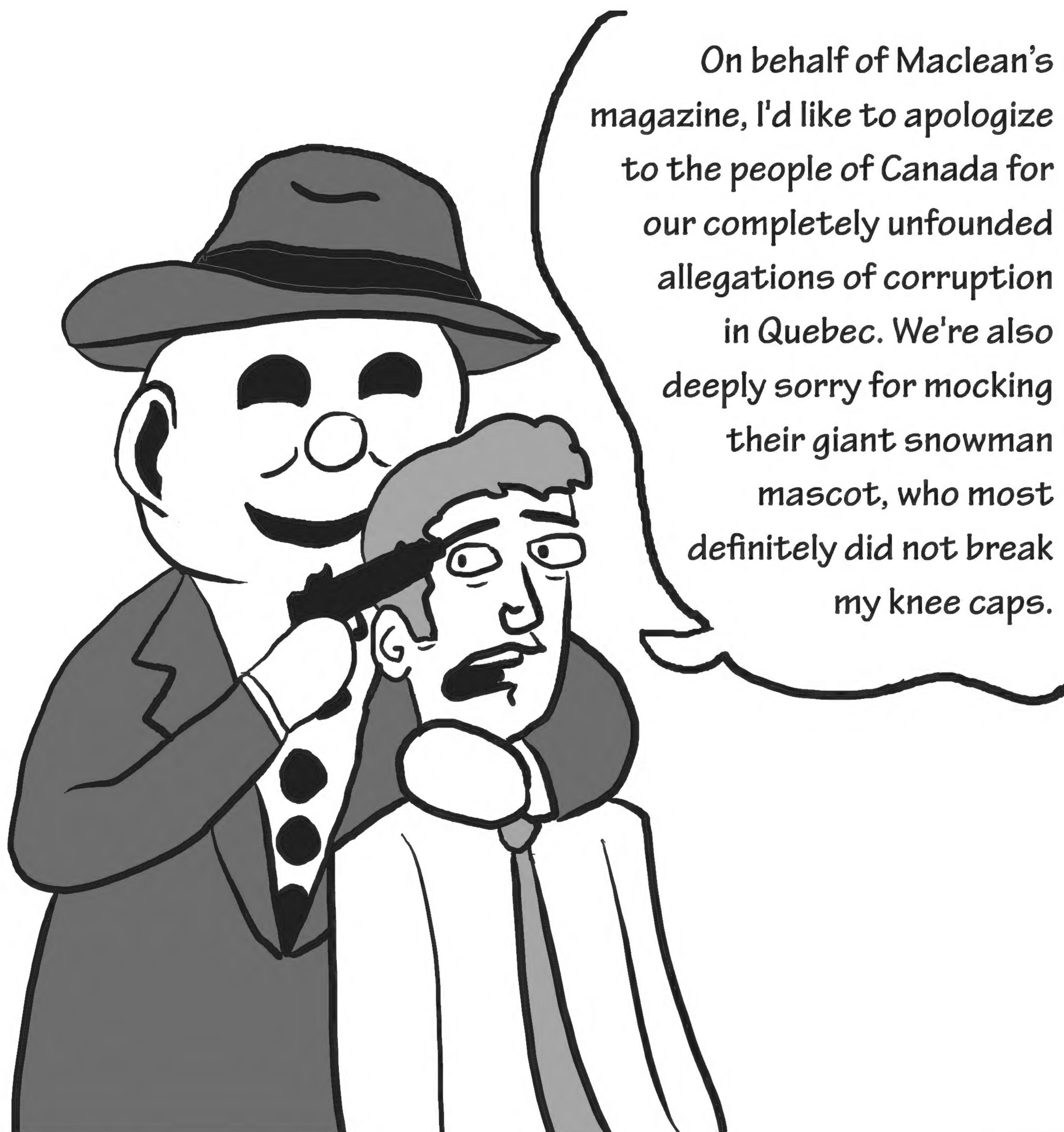
Perhaps *Maclean's* hand was overplayed in the title: calling Quebec the "most corrupt province" is a bit unfair when its most well-known controversy, the sponsorship scandal, was a federally directed program. Other provinces have had problems with corruption — citizens in B.C. no doubt remember when the RCMP raided their legislature in 2003, obtaining information that culminated in charges that government aides accepted bribes and committed fraud. The controversy has led to a trial that is still ongoing.

Some argue that the cover not only offends Quebecers and snowmen, but that it is overtly sensationalistic. But compared to the average *Maclean's*, Bonhomme's appearance is relatively tame and measured. The August 23 cover consisted of three physicians staring down at the reader from the front, next to a headline that screamed out "Do you trust your doctor?" Similarly, on May 10, two teenage and presumably emotionally corrupted girls in a black-and-white photo greeted subscribers under a bright yellow-printed headline promising an in-depth look at "The dangerously empty lives of teenage girls." *Maclean's* is known for their sensationalistic covers, so no one should be surprised. And they'll probably continue doing it, because it works — the Bonhomme issue is reportedly flying off the shelves.

If a fairly tame political cartoon on a magazine cover is all that is needed to stir up a "controversy" these days, with a separatist leader crying foul at the slightest provocation, then maybe there are no substantial controversies anymore necessitating the existence of the Bloc Québécois. Perhaps they need manufactured controversy and media circuses such as this to maintain relevancy, just as Ralph Klein needed to rally against Ottawa to maintain popularity back in his time.

Canadians would be best served if Duceppe and the other whiners involved realized that a plump snowman caricature on the front of a news magazine is worth little more than a brief chuckle and not the mass of attention it's so far been awarded.

SIMON YACKULIC  
Deputy News Editor



LANCEMUDRYK

## letters TO THE eds

### Standing up worth something after all

RE: ("Stand Up is a stand in for real action," Alix Kemp, September 21)

The latest attack on the Stand Up Against Poverty event is regrettably devoid of facts regarding the actual event and is incredibly counterproductive to inspiring the type of action that the author lauds as being critical for accomplishing the goal of alleviating global poverty.

The banner that was intended to be dropped was lifted and displayed, but never "dropped," begging the question of whether Alix Kemp actually attended the event or decided to write his editorial with such authority after thoroughly reviewing the event poster. If he had attended the event, he may have noticed the 400 high school students in attendance who participated in workshops around campus, which were hosted by social justice student groups such as Engineers Without Borders, ECOS, WUSC, and various others.

The workshops engaged the students in development issues and educated them on some of the solutions currently being undertaken, while at the same time challenging them to look at ways they can contribute and assist in the improvement of the global community. While I agree that there are some poorly executed campaigns

out there, I think it's safe to say that publishing sweeping editorials that lambaste every form of social outreach event that attempts to raise awareness about how people can work to improve their world is far more detrimental.

Regarding the point about outreach events accomplishing nothing since the general populous is already aware of the issues at hand, I would disagree entirely. While it's ingrained in everyone from a young age that these problems exist in the world, they're often portrayed as insurmountable obstacles that are beyond being able to solve. The theme of the Stand event was the Millennium Development Goals and the solutions being undertaken to achieve these goals, a subject that the blog Aidwatchers reported only five per cent of Americans know exist. These and other practical solutions need to get greater exposure and public dialogue in the media and society if we're to accomplish a better future for the world.

FRASER MAH  
Environmental Engineering V

### Steinbrenner has a place among baseball's heroes

RE: ("Huge egos don't belong among the greats," Matt Hirji, September 23)

As a Toronto Blue Jays fan, the last thing I thought I'd be doing when I woke up was writing a letter in defense of George Steinbrenner. However, Mr. Hirji's article on the late Yankees owner really irked me.

Firstly, the idea that Steinbrenner had little to do with the Yankees franchise because he never hit a home run is ludicrous. The same could be said for Joe Torre, and I don't think many would question his impact on the organization. Steinbrenner brought in the players that would end up winning seven championships under his ownership, by shelling out his personal wealth and selling the Yankees to everyone from Reggie Jackson to Alex Rodriguez in order to get them to sign on. During the season he could be seen — and heard — talking to managers about lineups, pitching match-ups, and defensive arrangements, always getting his two cents in.

And Steinbrenner never did this for "the ridiculous piles of money that he could mass." Countless books, movies, articles, poems, and probably haikus were written outlining the one thing "The Boss" cared about: championships. He grossly outspent all other teams in the last decade, bringing the best and brightest stars to New York in hopes of winning the World Series, and was never deterred by success costing more every year.

There are a countless number of terrible qualities the Mr. Steinbrenner possessed. He was impatient, crass, rude, and had little regard for norms or rules of baseball, finally culminating in being suspended from daily management by MLB for a period of two years. He was merciless to players and managers, firing manager Billy Martin five separate times before Martin's death in 1989 (per-

haps in order to avoid being hired again). However, to question his impact on the team and modern baseball is laughable.

Is his plaque in Monument Park too big? Maybe. Should his 37 years of ownership be overlooked? Under no circumstances. This reader suggests that, in the future, article research might need to go further than watching old *Seinfeld* re-runs.

DWIGHT DAKERS  
Civil Engineering IV

## from THE web

### Opinion section employs child labour

RE: ("Stand Up is a stand in for real action," Alix Kemp, September 21)

The editor must be a young child. It's the only way not to notice the change that has taken place locally in last few years.

Positive change starts with bringing like-minded agencies together and raising awareness.

"GERTRUDE"  
Via Internet

### A new plan for tuition

RE: ("Canada has second-highest rate of education spending in the world," Moly Milosovic, September 21)

PLEASE SEE LETTERS • PAGE 7



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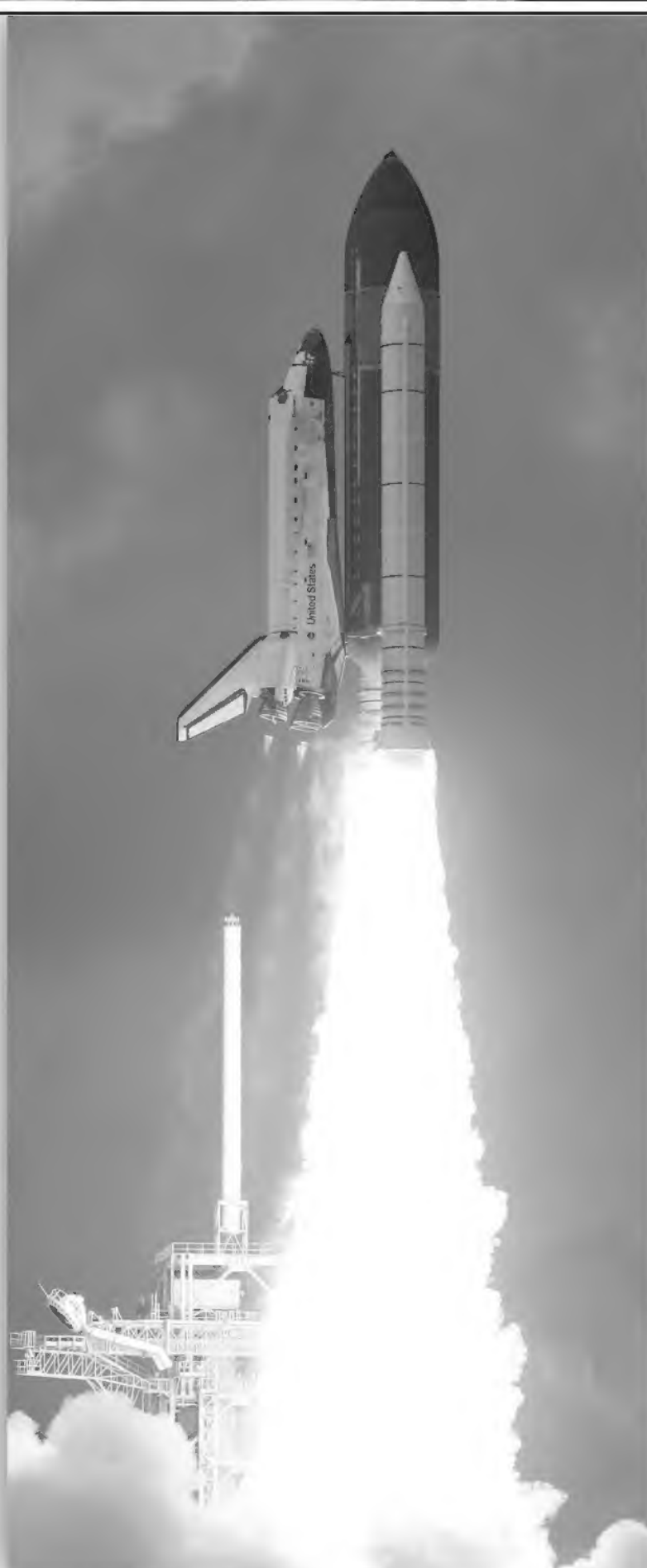
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# Iranian president not quite a nutcase



RYLAN  
BROMSGROVE

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has made an international political career out of constantly one-upping himself when it comes to crazy, inflammatory statements. In fact, if someone were to maintain a @shitahmadinejad-says Twitter account, I'm willing to bet they'd have a low-quality sitcom offer within a week. Most recently, he claimed in a speech to the UN General Assembly that most people think that 9/11 was orchestrated by the U.S. government.

Hearing this, I immediately pictured a scene wherein Ahmadinejad, watching a 9/11 "truthier" documentary on a 13-inch laptop screen, would enthusiastically exclaim that Iran must host a conference dedicated to 9/11 Truth investigations. "The world must know the truth," he would declare, eyes wide, "and glorious Iran must lead the way!" His aides, all-too-familiar with how this will all turn out — elaborate hijinks and misadventure — would look at each other, sigh, and simultaneously lower their faces into their palms to hide matching "here we go again" expressions. But behind the façade of crazy lurks a cunning — if rather unscrupulous — political mind.

It's absurd to suggest that most people believe the 9/11 conspiracy theories. Indeed, part of the identity of the actual conspiracy theorists

— those brave souls who painstakingly pore over every frame of every 30-second-long camera-phone video they can find to cherry-pick anomalous recording artifacts that indicate that the planes were actually an elaborate hologram — is that they are the few enlightened warriors who must convert the sheeple without getting caught by the masterful manipulators who fooled the world and managed to keep it all under wraps.

**It should be clear that I don't believe the 9/11 conspiracy theories. And, what's more, I don't think that Ahmadinejad does either.**

If most people thought that the U.S. government was responsible, then it wouldn't really be a conspiracy theory any more. Despite still being wrong, through the process of reality-by-consensus, politics might actually change.

It should be clear that I don't believe the 9/11 conspiracy theories. And, what's more, I don't think that Ahmadinejad does either.

The focus of the media has been on his suggestions about 9/11, and how the U.S. delegation walked out on his speech. Relatively few news stories say much about what else he said — he opened his diatribe with a religious criticism of capitalism, then moved on to the international response to 9/11. He described three potential viewpoints on the attacks — that they

were carried out by a terrorist organization, that they were the work of the American government, or that they were co-ordinated by a terrorist organization with the support of the U.S. government — and what groups he thinks holds each one. Critically, however, he didn't reveal which he himself ascribed to. He then went on to remark that the wars spawned by 9/11 killed thousands more people. This was followed by a reasonable plea for nuclear disarmament and nuclear energy, and ending with a lengthy religion-infused call for peace, justice, love, and the end of capitalism.

Now, regardless of what Iran's actual motives may be when it comes to nuclear weapons, power, and world peace, what is key is that much of the speech had the appearance of being reasonable. But by provoking western countries to walk out with two minutes of conspiracy nonsense, Ahmadinejad cunningly allowed himself to appeal to his own country, allies, and those sitting on the fence, while also being able to claim that despite making some very reasonable calls for peace and nuclear disarmament, the West wouldn't listen to him. Sure, the western media will predictably demonize him, but he has nothing to lose there. Where it counts for him, he'll likely strengthen his own support — indeed, Iranian MPs released a statement giving their full support to Ahmadinejad's speech before the UN General Assembly — while making it look like it's the U.S. who are unwilling to negotiate.

The conspiracy theorists are wrong. The U.S. government is not and never was a masterful manipulator fooling the world — that distinction belongs to Ahmadinejad.

# Facebook addiction a scourge on society



JUSTIN  
BELL

**"We're so addicted to [Facebook] that 2.5 hours without the ability to check in on our friends or upload pictures of our dogs becomes the number-one trending topic on Twitter. We had to revert to our newest internet addiction to talk about our other technological problems."**

Office productivity and family interactions skyrocketed last week as Facebook, the social lechery site, took a two-and-a-half hour break from existence.

Oddly enough, having read all the reactions afterwards, most people were understanding about the service interruption. Computing website ZDNet pointed to the Internet giant's "transparency" when it came to their outage — the Facebook Twitter feed had updates about the issues, including a technical explanation of the problem. In a note, they called it the "worst outage we've had in over four years." What they meant to say was, "We're sorry all you socially awkward people were forced to interact with the real world."

I know it's clichéd to talk about how Facebook is ruining society or how it's the worst thing since the invention of atomic weaponry. And, in fact, I don't hate Facebook — it does what it does really well, allowing people to post photos, make comments, and generally interact with a large group of friends.

But are we really at the point where a midday outage becomes one of the top stories on the news? We've allowed Facebook to become such a large part of our lives that what would normally be a blip on the radar turned into an all-out news feeding frenzy, with commentary running everywhere.

That's been, in my opinion, the major problem with Facebook — our overall addiction. As a service, it's great. As a social drug, it's a growing problem. We're so addicted to it that 2.5 hours without the ability to check in on our friends or upload pictures of our dogs becomes the number-one trending topic on Twitter. We had to revert to our latest Internet addiction to talk about our other technological problems.

I'm not trying to dump on new technologies here. Luddites through the ages have done enough of that already. It's true that any new technology is going to scare people and make them pine for what they had before. Trains moved at the breakneck speed of 15 miles per hour when they were introduced, a terrifying velocity at which man should never travel. And I'm sure cuneiform had its detractors in ancient Mesopotamian society.

But this incident shows that we have more to be concerned about than simply a new technology. That this one small corner of the internet has become the focal point of most of the online world has repercussions beyond time killing, like the loss of social skills that occurs when people plug in so often that they forget to maintain relationships outside of their computer.

While Facebook has been hammered again and again over the past year, with

critics taking apart new designs and the public controversy over the site's privacy settings, it got away from this incident without too much criticism from the media.

It's likely because the outage hurt them more than the users. For half an afternoon, users only had to survive without playing Farmville, checking out photos, or posting stupid links to videos of dogs chasing their tails. But for Facebook, no one was looking at the ads that accompany these inane habits we've formed.

It's impossible to say how much money they lost due to the outage as Mark Zuckerberg and the other Facebook overlords have kept their financial mumbo-jumbo close to the chest — but now that Facebook has returned, the stream of ad revenue will resume. And that's the brilliant irony of the situation. The 500 million members of this newest internet nation-state are chomping at the bit to get back on and load up those thousands of ads, making Zuckerberg even more money; we just can't get enough.

I can live with the obscene number of people connected or even the ridiculous pile of cash Zuckerberg must surely sleep on. What concerns me is the addiction individuals show towards the great social mothership.

Now if you'll excuse me, I have to update my status — everyone should know about my plans for Friday night.



# Apathy not to blame for poor voter turnout

Students' Union by-election results not surprising given the lack of information available to students



ANDREW  
JEFFREY

I don't care: the three little words that represent an often-discussed issue in today's society. Although university students should get involved in various causes and in the politics that affect them, it often seems that we just don't have enough time or energy to take a stand on every single issue — or any at all. It's a serious problem when you can't get students to take five minutes out of their day in order to vote in the annual by-elections.

Then again, maybe apathy isn't to blame. Being a first-year student, there's a lot of things that I've yet to figure out. Right now, I'm the new guy who I'm sure everyone's seen before — the one who runs into you in HUB because he's walking down the wrong side, or the idiot asking for directions to the building next to the one he's standing in. As someone fresh out of high school, I'm naturally ignorant about a number of things at university. I'm not apathetic, just slightly oblivious.

Despite that, I came to university

determined to become informed. I wanted to get involved and make a difference on campus. The Students' Union by-elections, which occurred last Thursday and Friday in order to fill empty Students' Council and General Faculties Council (GFC) seats, should have been an opportunity to do just that, and I planned on doing some quick research on who was running so I could make an informed decision on who to vote for.

Or at least, that was the plan. Instead, I wasted time searching everywhere I could, only to find no information about the by-election candidates anywhere.

**It makes no sense that students should be expected to elect people simple because their name is on the bubble sheet, but that's basically what's being asked of them.**

The Students' Union website, which features plenty of information on last March's elections along with a horribly out-of-date calendar, was surprisingly little help. Figuring I'd have more luck with actual human beings

than the internet, I turned to the students staffing the voting booths. However, they didn't have any information either; in fact, they're prohibited from discussing the election so they can't influence anyone's vote.

With no posters and no ads to be found, the only resource available to students was a series of short speeches given by candidates before a handful of classes. Unless they were lucky enough to be in one of those classes, students unfamiliar with the election process had no notice that the by-elections were even happening until receiving an e-mail the day before voting started.

Is it really any surprise then that turnout for the election was only 2.07 per cent, with a grand total of 370 votes? Granted, I realize that the by-election clearly isn't the most significant event on campus this year, but if the Student's Council and GFC are really "the two most important forums where student voices are heard" as their website claims, then students should know something about who's representing them.

But if merely finding out anything about the candidates is a time-consuming and arduous task, even for those who are interested in voting, it should come as no shock that turnout is atrocious. Students need to know who they're being asked to vote for. It makes no sense that students should

be expected to elect people simply because their name is on the bubble sheet, but that's basically what's being asked of them. Not making this knowledge available in a simple way only encourages student apathy during a crucial time when first years should be encouraged as much as possible to get involved.

This doesn't mean that students need to be inundated with emails, letters, and campaign literature. All the SU needs to do is inform everyone of the by-elections a little sooner and give them an easily accessible resource to find out about the platforms of the candidates, or really, any knowledge about who they are at all. These aren't difficult changes to institute and they would make it much easier for students to participate in the election.

If new students are given the opportunity to learn and actually care about university politics early in their academic careers, then there's a better chance they'll stay invested in voting in future years. Every student at the U of A is a potential voter, but they were never given a reason to care about the by-elections. If voter turnout was less than what the SU hoped for, they shouldn't blame student apathy. They treated these elections as an irrelevant sidenote, and they shouldn't be surprised that students felt the same way.

## THE BURLAP SACK

The Students' Union Building is a zoo during the first couple of weeks of school. There are people milling about everywhere and they always seem to be in my way. Some of them are simply walking too slowly, lost in a never-never land that has them swaying to and fro lackadaisically, while everyone in the real world tries to filter around them.

There is inevitably a group of people who have decided that right in the middle of SUB is the best place for them to have a conversation, and they form their own little circle, not bothered that people are squeezing against the walls just to get by them. SUB is essentially an obstacle course all through September.

Now add to this mess the vendors in SUB. There are countless vendor booths selling all sorts of wares, from jewelry to children's books to T-shirts. They're taking up valuable hallway space with their very presence, and for what? Does the stand selling children's books actually get a lot of business? Regardless of how well these entrepreneurs fare in sales, since when did SUB become an international marketplace? If students wanted to bargain for products, we would head to the farmers' market on the weekend.

Not only does their very presence take away from the much-needed side lanes in SUB, they also result in a group of people clumping together around one stand, holding up the rest of us. This is a particular problem near the SUB east doors, where people getting cream for their Java Jive coffee are enough of a problem, without adding vendors on the other side of the hall.

The hallways should be treated the same as the roadways — everybody goes the speed limit, sticks to the right-hand side of the hall, and doesn't create obstacles and obstructions on the shoulders of the road. But since I don't think SUB is going to be getting rid of the vendors anytime soon, they're getting shoved into the burlap sack.

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

LETTERS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Students should pay the cost of their university tuition, and governments should reimburse them, either partially or fully, upon graduating with a degree or diploma from an approved list. This list would be updated annually by a committee of stakeholders in government and business, and providers of education. No degree or diploma would be considered less than another.

The government should provide an additional incentive to complete degrees or specialties in areas where the country's needs are not being met, as per the list from immigration. The criteria should be updated automatically by a mechanism, not a group of people. This mechanism should rely on annual statistics and the updating of this criteria should be automatic and not subject to political intervention.

Full reimbursement should be granted after working for a set number of years in a related field, monitored by a professional association or government body.

ALEX FAVELLA  
Via Internet

No love for blowjob comic

RE: ("Small favour," Lance Mudryk and Evan Mudryk, September 21)

This atrocious joke of a comic is not just lewd, but completely lacking in humour of any kind. How does The Gateway publish garbage of this magnitude?

"INDEERA"  
Via Internet

Id & Ego a welcome respite from pretentious university paper

RE: ("Id & Ego," Lauren Alston, September 9)

You're the only reason we read The Gateway. Your comic is really cute and so clever. Makes up for how pretentious The Gateway is. Don't ever stop.

"JEN AND AUDREY"  
Via Internet

Letters to the editor should be sent via paper airplane, or emailed to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca, or if you're courageous enough to brave the terrifying elevators to the third floor, dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 400 words, and should include the author's name, program, and year of study, to be considered for publication.

Please note that 400 words does not mean 10 pages. We aren't quite that desperate for copy.

Furthermore, emails featuring excessive amounts of exclamation marks, overuse of the caps-lock key, large font sizes, or emoticons, will be posted in a prominent location in the Gateway office and ridiculed mercilessly by the editorial staff and volunteers.

Your well-written, brilliant, and insightful letters fill our sad little lives with joy.

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On September 11th, 2001, Les Parsons, a graduate from the University of Alberta, was travelling in Kabul, Afghanistan, during the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. He was one of the last foreigners to leave Afghanistan.

## Hear his story.

Les will be sharing a slide presentation of his extreme backpacking adventure in the remote villages of the Karakorum Highway region of the Himalayas, coming from Tibet into Pakistan and Afghanistan. He travelled over the Khyber Pass into Pakistan, along the Indus River, the source of the flood-waters that have devastated millions of lives in Pakistan. Les spent time in the same villages as Greg Mortenson, author of Three Cups of Tea.

The University of Alberta Outdoors Club invites you to a special presentation on

**Wednesday September 29th**  
**7:30pm, Tory Lecture Theatre #11**

**FREE ADMISSION** for university students and the general public.

**DONATIONS** 100% of all donations go to charity, and are matched by the Canadian Government.

**Double Your Money!** Join the University of Alberta Outdoors Club to help raise funds for the health and education of the children of Pakistan and Afghanistan!



# Eurydice finds new life in the underworld

## theatre review

### Eurydice

Directed by David Horak

Written by Sarah Ruhl

Starring Beth Graham, Michael Peng, and Mathew Hulshof

Runs everyday until October 2 at 7:30 p.m. (matinee September 30 at 12:30 p.m.)

Timms Centre for the Arts (87 Ave. and 112 St.)

Tickets \$10 for students at the box office or at [www.tixonthesquare.ca](http://www.tixonthesquare.ca)

**ALIX KEMP**

Opinion Editor

It's not spoiling anything to say that in *Eurydice*, everyone dies — or, perhaps more accurately, everyone is dead.

The basic story is familiar to most: following the death of his wife Eurydice, the musician Orpheus travels to the land of the dead in order to retrieve her. However, when Orpheus looks at her on his way back, Eurydice dies a second death. In Sarah Ruhl's modern adaptation of the Greek myth, though, that's only a small part of the tale.

Somewhat ironically, the play doesn't really find itself until the title character dies. The opening act, which sets up the relationship between the young couple, is easily the least interesting — the dialogue and action feels forced, as if the actors can't quite make sense of the strange, poetic script, and the audience is just passing the time until the main action of the play begins.



AARON YEO

Following Eurydice's descent into the underworld, though, the bizarre, twisted world Ruhl has crafted starts to come into focus.

Jennifer Goodman, who did the set design as part of her master's thesis, has put together a stunning backdrop — the towering steel structure that takes up much of the stage serves to establish the mood for the strange happenings of the underworld. She's successfully taken advantage of some of the play's more peculiar elements, including an elevator that rains, and a house made from umbrellas and string.

The play puts a twist on the traditional Greek tragedy by tasking a chorus

of actors playing three stones — with explaining some parts of the action while constantly reminding the grieving Eurydice to shut up, accept her own death, and obey the rules of her new home. Their serious tone is juxtaposed with the Lord of the Underworld, as played by Mathew Hulshof, the joyfully malicious and capricious ruler of the dead who serves to lighten the mood with almost childlike wonder.

The relationship between Eurydice (Beth Graham) and her father (Michael Peng) is probably the most dynamic of the play, and feels far more multifaceted and real than the one she has with her husband. Following

her death, Eurydice is childlike and lost, with familiar objects becoming alien to her, and it's her father who guides her through her new existence with tenderness and patience. The complexities of their relationship really make the second part of the play worth sticking around for after the mediocre start. In some senses, though, this makes her marriage to Orpheus — portrayed by Bryan D. Webb — feel tangential, and it's difficult to understand why he's so desperate to retrieve his wife.

Although Ruhl's *Eurydice* is a quirky twist on the original myth, it does retain the source's sense of tragedy. However,

the darker elements don't come from death, but rather from themes of loss and memory. Death is inconvenient, it seems, but Eurydice's decision to return to the land of the living with Orpheus is more heart-wrenching than her passing. What's most tragic is watching the characters forget their own pasts — a perfect reflection of the idea that we should hold on to our memories of those we love, regardless of how painful it might be.

Despite *Eurydice*'s stumbling first steps, it's the play's core message about the complexities of grief and remembrance that will resonate with its audience.

# Carefree Caribou Swims with current dance music trends

## music preview

### Caribou

With *Emeralds*

Thursday, September 30 at 8 p.m.

Starlite Room (10030-102 St.)

\$18 at Blackbyrd and Ticketmaster

**CHRIS GEE**

Arts & Entertainment Writer

After playing a sold-out show in Edmonton this past summer, Dan Snaith of Caribou has already returned, poised to see how many more dancers he can conjure up onto the floor.

Recently shortlisted for the 2010 Polaris Prize with his thought-provoking album *Swim*, Snaith ensures that his music is constantly changing, even within the span of a few months, and that his September show won't be a repeat of June.

"The songs that we were playing [this summer] just kind of evolved naturally[.]" Snaith says. "It just keeps it interesting for us, to keep things changing all the time."

From the point when he started his career under the provincial moniker Manitoba, to a few years ago when he won the 2008 Polaris Prize with his album *Andorra*, Caribou has never limited himself to only one genre. Snaith has gone in multiple directions over his career — from the jangly shoegaze of *Up in Flames* and the less calculated '60s Brit-rock noise of *Andorra*, to his current upbeat dance record *Swim*. But when asked about the reasons for these sudden direction changes, Snaith is still unsure about the answer himself.

"There's no method, because you're just led



by whatever feels like fun," Snaith explains. "If I thought of a melody while I was eating my lunch, I'll record that and try to play different chords on top of that or [...] program a sample from an old record. It's never gotten boring for that reason, because I'm always excited to try something different."

Snaith's willingness to go wherever the creative flow takes him has also shifted the mood of his live shows. The dance music of *Swim* is a clear difference from years past, not only from him but for his audience as well.

"It has definitely changed the atmosphere of [our] shows," Snaith admits. "There's been lots of shows this year that have turned into big dance parties [...] which is great and it's something totally new for us."

Despite this, the Dundas, Ontario native has managed to carry the signature psychedelic Caribou sound throughout his career, often without even trying.

"It just happens. It's me making all the music, and they're made during the same time period so the same ideas are filtering around through all

the tracks," Snaith says. "It's always been interesting to me [to find] that things are coherent just by accident almost."

However, his continuing success and rising public profile in the Canadian music scene has played a huge role in giving him the confidence level necessary to release his most accessible and danceable offering to date.

Winning the Polaris Prize for *Andorra* was a "nice affirming thing" for Snaith, but that didn't stop him from looking in a new direction. Underneath the spatial landscapes of throbbing dance rhythms, *Swim* is complete with Snaith's own vocals, something that he has been adding gradually over his past few efforts.

"The first album I sung on was *Up In Flames*. [I was] more tentatively using small snippets of vocals as an instrument rather than a lead vocal," Snaith adds, "I wasn't even singing live [then]."

"And the next record I started singing one song live and then gradually started singing more and more [...] I'm a much better singer than I was [before] just 'cause now I do it every night."

Snaith's talent for singing and songwriting, which has left his doctorate in mathematics collecting dust, was something he just stumbled upon by accident. He doesn't over-think things, and most of what he makes is a product of what mental space he happens to occupy at the time. Just like his entire impromptu music career, even the titles to his songs have little to do with the actual music.

"Early on, tracks like 'Paul's Birthday' — I'd forgotten to get my friend Paul a birthday present so, it was actually a pretty terrible birthday present that I named that track after him," he explains. "Often, the titles don't really have anything to do with the music, but they have something to do with something going on in my personal life."



# Partying hard a way of life for local band

Edmonton's Fire Next Time takes wild show to the east coast, clean pair of pants the only casualty

## musicpreview

**Fire Next Time**  
With Audio/Rocketry  
Wednesday, September 29 at 8 p.m.  
Wunderbar Hofbrauhaus (10159-82 Ave.)  
Free

DUSTIN BLUMHAGEN  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

In a country where simply winning a game show catapults you to a certain level of instant fame, the guys in Fire Next Time refuse to take the easy road. Instead, their persistent work ethic could be chronicled in a sequel to the legendary punk movie *Another State of Mind*.

Musically, they may have little in common with Social Distortion or Youth Brigade, but their chaotic schedule provides a lot of fodder for a wild touring chronicle. Whether their vocalist is sporting Juggalo facepaint after losing a bet or their bassist has an accident after downing a couple of cans of coconut milk, Fire Next Time have many wild stories and frontman James Renton seems to be a repository of the band's adventures.

"We were in Ottawa and we played a show at this Russian bar. We were sitting there and they had no PA, so we just kind of moved our stuff in. We were doing shots of absinthe and we got pretty tipsy. We just plugged in the guitars and did a screaming match because there were no microphones or anything like that. Then we went out and did what you would call a 'take-away show.' There was someone from one of the TV stations there, so we went [out] and very drunkenly played in an alleyway and met some cool buskers," he says.

But the night didn't end there. "We went upstairs and met some people and played for free sno-cones. Then we went to a bar that sells a 40-ounce of beer for seven dollars and we all danced to Bruce Springsteen 'cause it was the 35th anniversary of *Born to Run*, so we were pretty stoked on that."

Just another day for the prairie group, who took the opportunity to embark on a eastern tour shortly after wrapping up a summer stint with their comrades Audio/Rocketry. To welcome



them home after their exhaustive run, the guys in A/R have organized a "welcome home" gig for the band, who could use a warm welcome after some tough times on the road.

**"[Our bassist Mikey] walked right into a bar, pooped his pants and had to turn around and leave right away. That's because he drank two big cans of organic coconut milk."**

JAMES RENTON  
FRONTMAN, FIRE NEXT TIME

"Last night, we slept in a rest area. We put up some tents and it was freezing cold," Renton says.

But for every dark moment, there's a brighter morning to follow. Renton tells of one such low moment, when the band was facing a couple of cancelled shows and a cold autumn night in the Canadian Shield when the discovery of a very positive review of their album *Wild Rose Sorrow*

in Canadian indie music magazine *Exclaim* cheered them up.

"We woke up, and we were wet and grumpy and we happened to check the internet to see if any of the new reviews were out and that was out. It kind of lifted our spirits a little bit. We were all pretty dim-eyed, it was especially cold [that day] and everything was soaking wet. We drove 17 hours to get [to Thunder Bay], so we were very stoked on [the review]."

Even when they're being recognized, the lead singer is quick to point to his influences. He passionately proclaims his love for the late Townes Van Zandt, who influences not only his lyrics, but his hard drinking and touring lifestyle. He even makes an appearance on Renton's amp in the form of a spray-painted emblem. While the average person his age may not be familiar with Van Zandt or even John Prine, Fire Next Time are gaining fans nationwide. Their popularity can be partially attributed to their hard partying, but sometimes, though, there are moments where pursuing a good time can backfire in extreme and hilarious ways.

"[Our bassist Mikey] walked right into a bar, pooped his pants and had to turn around and leave right away. That's because he drank two big cans of organic coconut milk."

## FLOP CULTURE

Katy Perry has done it again. First, she was indulging her hedonistic lust by kissing girls. Now, she's flaunting her ample breasts for the pleasure of impressionable children. Perry made headlines last week after *Sesame Street* decided against airing a duet between the pop star and Elmo on the show. The musical segment — a rendition of Perry's "Hot N Cold" — appeared on YouTube, causing hysteria among parents because of her low-cut busty top.

How dare Perry think it's appropriate to expose young children and toddlers to her breasts on a nationally syndicated kids show? Children shouldn't be exposed to boobs until they're at least old enough to circumvent their parents' net nannies, finding Perry's music videos by themselves on the internet. Only then should they be exposed to such scandalous filth and enjoy the many benefits supplied by Perry's bosom.

Not only were her breasts practically exposed throughout the video, but her dress was far too short. Elmo was running around her legs, and could probably see right up it, the little pervert. What kind of fashion sense is this teaching? The six-year-old girls watching are going to notice how much fun the two seem to be having, and, in an effort to win Elmo's affection for themselves, beg their mothers for their own miniskirts. Now, Katy Perry is promoting tantrums in department stores.

Everyone is all concerned about the kids watching the show, but what about poor innocent Elmo? He seemed really uncomfortable shooting that video with Perry's boobs bouncing up and down as she's chasing him, practically bursting out of her barely-there top. No wonder Elmo felt the need to run away from her in the video, even if he claims it was in jest. He could have been knocked out cold.

It's a repulsive world we live in when children are plopped in front of a television set, expecting to watch some quality, wholesome programs, only to stare at a scantily-clad musician for two minutes. And people think the Cookie Monster is a bad role model...

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE

*Flop Culture is a semi-regular feature in which Gateway pop culture pundits shake their literary fists at ridiculous events or celebrities deserving of an inky bitch-slap.*

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## FB movie proof Hollywood is adapting



ANDREW  
JEFFREY

A&E  
Commentary

Whether it's used for catching up with friends, playing *Farmville*, or distracting you while you try to write that 10-page essay you've been meaning to start, Facebook has undoubtedly altered the way we communicate. Whether you like it or not, in a short six years, Facebook has invaded our popular culture in every way, amassing 500 million users along the way. Now the controversial story of how it came to be is moving from millions of computer screens to celluloid.

Releasing October 1, *The Social Network* tells the story of Mark Zuckerberg and how he became a billionaire through the creation of Facebook. Since the project was announced, it has been met with laughter, derision, and outright dismissal. Zuckerberg and the rest of Facebook's public figures have disowned the story, insisting it's largely fabricated and

exaggerated to make their lives seem more exciting than they actually were — strange that they would admit that, but it's likely the case.

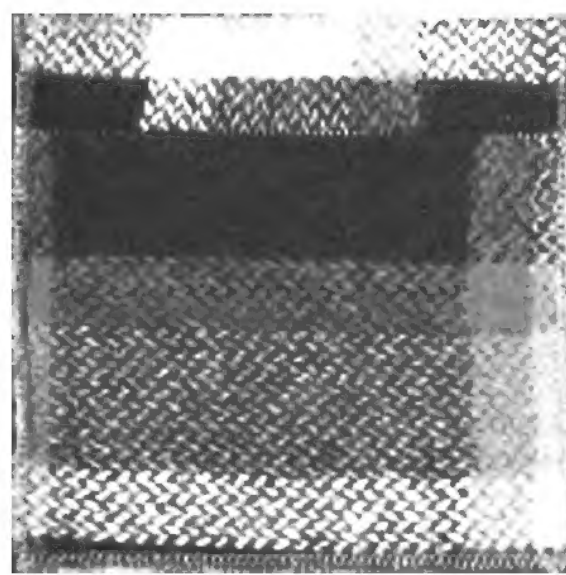
The script is adapted from a book written about Facebook's founding, but a movie about a website is still too strange for many to accept. To its critics, *The Social Network* is evidence that Hollywood is creatively bankrupt with an unhealthy reliance on adaptations rather than original scripts. They don't believe that creating a good movie out of an abstract, unexpected concept, already well known to many, is in fact creative and risky in its own way, even if that risk isn't financial. Film adaptations set themselves up for criticism as lazy ventures that are solely created to allow studios to make a quick buck.

The immense amount of buzz *The Social Network* has been getting from reviewers (it currently holds perfect scores from both Metacritic and Rotten Tomatoes based on early reviews), coupled with the titanic popularity of Facebook, makes this movie as close to a sure moneymaker as anything else that has come out this year. The fact that a probable commercial and critical hit is coming from such unlikely source material is something of a surprise. But it shouldn't be.

As adaptations from books and true stories become more and more frequent in Hollywood in favour of ideas written only for the screen, we as a collective movie-going audience must not be so quick to disregard films based solely on their source material.

*The Social Network* is part of a rising Hollywood trend, as ideas for films are more often now being adapted from a variety of sources. With a movie based off of a website, we also have movies based off toy lines (*Transformers*, *G.I. Joe*), theme park rides (*Pirates of the Caribbean*), and even board games (a movie about *Monopoly* is currently in the works). While it may seem as if Hollywood is desperately trying anything due to a lack of original ideas, taking inspiration from these sources and creating a film out of them is impressive in itself, especially if the final product succeeds despite things being lost in translation.

Films like *The Social Network* are showing us that adaptations are now as respectable as any original work and should be judged on its own merits. With the direction of modern cinema favouring more adaptations, we should be ready to embrace these new films for what they offer and not disregard them because of where they came from.



### albumreview

**Scott Dunbar**

*Philosophies of a Moth Vol.3: Two Years to Live*  
Independent

DAN MCKECHNIE  
Photo Editor

If a folk album can be considered "sprawling," itinerant Vancouverite Scott Dunbar's *Two Years to Live* is it. Spread across two discs, this punk-tinted record rattles between growling bottleneck blues and twangy folk melodies. Intimate production complements the equally minimal arrangements, which are often just

Dunbar and his guitar and, occasionally, some rudimentary percussion. Dunbar's ragged, cracked vocals fit the tone, with an edge of desperation that lends emotional weight. This makes his love songs and ballads especially sincere, with lovelorn lyrics such as "the girls of Montreal will leave you crying, lying facedown in your soup,"

but these odes are given power by Dunbar's aching voice.

The story-songs about Dunbar's gypsy lifestyle are similarly enjoyable. However, many tracks stray into political territory usually reserved for issues of Adbusters; strident lyrics such as "9/11, inside job, head out of the sand" indicate a lack of political sophistication on Dunbar's part, which spoils the album somewhat. Further, his lyrics seem too easy in places, with lines like "JFK, Martin Luther King, and John Lennon! What do you think happened to them?" If you can let that slide, however, Dunbar has a rough-and-ready musicality that makes for enjoyable listening. His style is unrefined, crunchy, and sincere, and that's generally good enough.



### albumreview

**Chromeo**

*Business Casual*  
Last Gang Records  
www.chromeo.net

MADELINE SMITH  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Chromeo's funky electro-pop stylings and cheeky lyrics are always a recipe for an impromptu dance party. You might want to refrain from listening to *Business Casual* in public, because you might not be able to help yourself — bobbing your head and tapping your toe could easily morph into uncontrollably busting-a-move at any moment. The '80s synthesizer sounds

and smooth vocals of Montreal duo Dave 1 and P-Thugg's latest record have produced yet another instantly likable record, overflowing with hooks that are impossible to get out of your head.

The entire album is a torrent of dangerously addictive electronic pop tunes, sometimes with a bit of a retro flavour thrown in. "The Right Type" has an echoing synthesizer and epic

chorus reminiscent of Journey's "Don't Stop Believing," and the female guest vocals on "When the Night Falls" make it sound like a single Mariah Carey might have recorded in her heyday. But it's the one-two punch of "Night By Night" and "Don't Turn the Lights On" that are most likely to end up on endless repeat. The first sounds like a '70s disco hit complete with an awesomely cheesy electric guitar solo in the middle and the second has a slick R&B-infused chorus that can only be described as ear candy.

*Business Casual* is a great listen if you happen to need a pop music pick-me-up. Just make sure you let go of your self-consciousness before you listen; there's no need to be ashamed of public dancing.



### albumreview

**Violent Kin**

*Velvet Hideout*  
Independent  
www.violentkin.com

STEPHANIE REEVES  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Upon first listen, *Velvet Hideout* provides a decent introduction to the music of Violent Kin's sibling duo S.J. and Maygen Kardash and becomes increasingly enjoyable each time they're heard. Honestly, the title track "Velvet Hideout" was a poor way to introduce the record considering how good it actually is. The

melody to this track was too moody and is reminiscent of an '80s flashback — and not the fun kind of '80s flashback with tight pants and bright attire. Think *Breakfast Club*-type angst. You can't, however, deny the catchiness of the group's second song, "Wolf." Without realizing it, you will be singing along to

the chorus, "wolf and they walk / wolf, wolf and they run / wolf, wolf, wolf and they think you're having fun." This track has enough clout to bring bring the band out of hiding and call call call them up to the big leagues.

The surprising aspect of this EP is the last two tracks, "Keep your Balance" and "Good Girl." They allow S.J. to take lead vocals and prove that that he can hold his own against his sis. His individual sound further enhances the musical capabilities of this pair and it seems like this is just a sampling of what Violent Kin can achieve. Hopefully *Velvet Hideout* lands in the hands of someone who can share their music with the masses.





# Billy Bishop a victory for Ulyatt

## theatre review

### Billy Bishop Goes to War

Directed by James MacDonald

Written by John Gray and Eric Peterson

Starring John Ulyatt and Ryan Sigurdson

Runs until October 10 at 7:30 p.m., with Sunday and Thursday matinees at 1:30 p.m.

Citadel Maclab Theatre (9828-101A Ave.)

\$44.10-\$59.35 for students at [citadeltheatre.com](http://citadeltheatre.com)

ALEXANDRIA ELDRIDGE  
Senior News Editor

*Billy Bishop Goes to War* may be a two-man show taking place on only one set, but audiences will meet a countless variety of characters and travel across the Atlantic Ocean thanks to the fantastic storytelling ability of John Ulyatt.

Ulyatt plays the esteemed and titular Canadian war hero Billy Bishop, who relates to his audience the story of his life, beginning at the Royal Military College in Ontario and continuing on into the First World War, where his sharp-shooting and aeronautical skills earned him multiple military honours.

As he tells his story, Ulyatt finds himself impersonating Bishop's superiors and colleagues and anyone else he meets along the way, making use of plenty of silly voices he has at his disposal. He begins by telling us that he is on record as the worst

student ever to attend the Royal Military College, and reinforces this fact by re-enacting a time when he and a friend snuck out one night in a canoe and flipped it, getting them caught and thus forcing Bishop onto suspended leave.

The flying ace doesn't exactly paint himself as a hero. He's spent a lot of time in the hospital, and although he claims he's accident-prone, it's obvious that this is simply a way for him to avoid responsibility. In fact, the only reason he joins the Royal Flying Corps is because he's given advice from a drunken man in a bar who tells him it's cleaner work than the cavalry.

**He works magic with what's given to him [...] forming the wooden boxes on the stage into a airplane and sitting atop it to signify when he's in the sky.**

But despite the fact that he turns his own title as "hero" on its head, he's a lovable character because he presents himself realistically. Bishop walks us through his entire journey to becoming a "hero," a haphazard flight usually having more to do with chance than any actual bravery on his part.

Some of Ulyatt's most hilarious moments include his impersonation of Lady St. Helier, who names herself the Bishop's benefactor. The entire play is full of slapstick humour and witty dialogue, with the impersonations being

integral to both. But of course, the word "war" is right there in the title, and there are some serious scenes that touch the audience just as deeply as the lighter moments. Bishop expresses on several occasions that war isn't as fun as he thought it would be.

Writing something as tragic as war to be a comedy can at times be a hard scale to balance. *Bishop's* opening act felt somewhat disconnected from the second, as the jarring about-face between the intermission didn't transition smoothly. The second half of the performance was an emotional shift from the play's light beginnings, and was far more song-heavy, making the show somewhat imbalanced, though still successful.

The story is impressively engaging, considering that Ulyatt is putting on a one-man show. He does have Ryan Sigurdson accompanying him by playing music on the piano and singing, but Sigurdson doesn't serve as an actual character in the story. And while Ulyatt doesn't have anyone else to interact with, he makes novel use of both costumes and the set to mix it up. Although it's a simple construction — the stage contains only some crates, a piano, some stools, and a bar — he works magic with what's given to him, pulling new uniforms out of the crates, and forming the wooden boxes onstage into a airplane and sitting atop it to signify when he's in the sky.

*Billy Bishop Goes to War* is a play that gives audiences a realistic portrayal of one of Canada's first war heroes, and although the set isn't fancy and there isn't any blood or explosions, we feel like we're right there with Bishop when he takes off.

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# Golden Bears get mauled by surging Huskies

## football roundup

### Bears vs. Saskatchewan

BREN CARGILL  
Sports Staff

The University of Alberta Golden Bears were not able to get the bounce-back win they were looking for as they were throttled 33-9 by the visiting Saskatchewan Huskies last Friday.

In an astonishing display of offensive prowess, the Huskies put up 548 yards of total offense that featured Huskies quarterback Laurence Nixon throwing for 423 yards and three touchdowns.

"We need to go back to the fundamentals, just play sound defence and understand the opponent's speed. Their passing game provided big swings in the game," said Bears head coach Jerry Friesen.

The Huskies got onto the board quickly by driving the opening kick off through the endzone for a single point on the opening play, which they followed up with a missed field goal single. One play after the Bears turned the ball over on a midfield interception, Nixon found wideout Jade Etienne down the sideline for a 53-yard touchdown pass to make it 9-0. Alberta kicker Hugh O'Neill nailed a field goal that finally got the Bears on the board and pulled them within six at the end of the first quarter.

The Huskies responded with their second major of the game by punching it in from the two-yard line at the beginning of the second quarter. After driving the ball 85 yards on six plays, Saskatchewan running back Ben Coakwell, who finished the game with 98 yards rushing on 21 carries, got the handoff and took it in for the touchdown to make the game 16-3 at the conclusion of the first half.

The Bears would get burned again and again by Jade Etienne, who would cap off a four-play, 67-yard drive with a 41-yard touchdown in the third quarter. He would finish the game with six catches for 171 yards and a whopping 28.5-yards-per-catch average.

"[Etienne] made plays. He's an



HENRY YU

outstanding receiver and we found out how good he is. We have to learn from the first play and we didn't respond to him," said Friesen.

After a second single point for Saskatchewan made it 24-3 at the end of the third quarter, the Huskies put the game away halfway through the fourth. Nixon found Mitch Stevens with a five-yard pass into the endzone to complete a 13-play, 90-yard

drive that took more than six minutes off the clock and put the game out of reach for the Bears.

The Bears switched quarterbacks at the end of the game as Curtis Dell replaced Julian Marchand. Dell proceeded to hook up with Bears wide receiver Laine Rogers on a 12-yard touchdown pass to cap off a 67-yard drive at the end of the game.

"[The quarterback change] gave us

an opportunity to get Curtis out on the field and get some game experience. You don't like doing it in that situation, but it gives Curtis a chance to see the speed of the game."

For the second straight week, the Bears did not fare well in the turnover battle, throwing three interceptions and losing two fumbles while forcing only one turnover themselves.

"There's going to be turnovers in

a game, doesn't matter what happens. What it comes down to, at that point in time, is how we deal with it. Whether it's a fumble or an interception, adversity happens. We've got to look at what kind of character we have when we deal with tough situations," said Friesen.

The Bears are back in action next Saturday when they travel to Regina to take on the 3-1 Rams.

# Puck Bears round out pre-season with two wins against rivals

## hockeyroundup

### Bears vs. Saskatchewan Bears vs. Regina

EVAN DAUM  
Sports Staff

It was just a few more bricks in the wall for the Golden Bears hockey squad this weekend. The Green and Gold continued to build towards the regular season by downing the Regina Cougars and Saskatchewan Huskies in the annual Brick Invitational tournament at Clare Drake Arena.

With their 3-0 win Friday over the Cougars, and a 4-2 win Saturday over the Huskies, the Bears completed their pre-season with only one blemish, which came on September 17 when the University of New Brunswick skated

away with a 6-2 victory against the Green and Gold.

For head coach Eric Thurston, the weekend was just another step in the long process of building his team up for another Canada West season.

"It's just sort of Grapefruit League action, and what's done is done," said Thurston. "It gets to be the real McCoy next weekend."

While the positive results were welcome for the Bears, the true value in their weekend matches was the opportunity to evaluate the team heading into the start of Canada West conference play next weekend against their Alberta competitors, the Calgary Dinos.

"[We're] looking to see the holes, weaknesses in our systems, and finding chemistry with lines — finding out players' dimensions and their roles," Thurston explained.

The appraisal opportunities might have been

the focus for the coaching staff over the course of the two games, but planting the seeds of confidence was also a welcome outcome from the weekend sweep of the two formidable Saskatchewan squads.

"We still have a long way to go, but it's slowly coming around," Thurston said. "Winning is a real positive regardless of if it's pre-season or whatever. Confidence is a key thing."

Alberta's top six forwards were on full display all weekend, combining to score six of the Bears seven goals over the course of the two games. Johnny Lazo and Derek Ryan each had a goal against Regina, while Sean Ringrose had a pair against the Huskies along with tallies from both Ryan and Alex Rodgers.

The Bears got some welcome powerplay production over the weekend; they were three-for-nine with the man advantage against Saskatchewan. That production will be key for the Bears this season yet again, and whether

or not the Green and Gold can duplicate their success from a year ago when the powerplay clicked for a nation-high 30.7 per cent is yet to be seen.

Jesse Zetariuk had both markers Saturday night for a Huskies team that is looking for a bounce-back season after faltering in the play-offs last year.

"Saskatchewan's got a real good team. They're sort of the big dog sleeping and lying in the weeds. [...] They have big defence that can move the puck. Their forwards are skilled, and when you get to play them anytime, it's going to be a battle," Thurston said.

"This is fine, and now we park it, and get ready for the opening of the season."

The Golden Bears will open their regular season at home this weekend with a two-game stint against the Calgary Dinos, Friday and Saturday with the puck dropping at 7:30 p.m. on both nights at Clare Drake Arena.





PAUL SWANSON

# Pandas lose grip on Foote turf

After two losses this weekend, the Field Pandas season is fading quickly

## fieldhockey roundup

### Pandas vs. Calgary

MATT HIRJI  
Sports Editor

The Field Hockey Pandas hopes of returning to the CIS national championships this fall are now in doubt after a two-match clawing from the Calgary Dinos took six valuable points away from the dazed Pandas this weekend.

The Pandas had high expectations for their home-opener matches against their provincial rivals. After two grueling losses Victoria last weekend, the Pandas were looking to get back on track.

However, after a two-day thrashing that saw the Dinos take both games 2-0, the Pandas left with the realization that their season could be cut short if they don't find a way to get better quickly.

While the Pandas improved their focus over the course of the two matches, the result on the scoreboard was the same at the conclusion of both matches — results that left rookie Pandas head coach Stefanie Sloboda stunned.

"As a coach, I'm not really sure what caused the results. It reminded me of people being in quicksand and not being able to speak," Sloboda said.

Despite losing both matches this weekend by two goals, the Pandas played much better in their second match of the weekend. On Saturday, the team appeared lost on the turf, unable to communicate effectively. The Dinos pounced on the disorganized Pandas, scoring two goals in the first 16 minutes of play and dominating the ball possession throughout the entire game.

**"As a coach, I'm not really sure what caused the results. It reminded me of people being in quicksand and not being able to speak."**

STEFANIE SLOBODA  
PANDAS FIELD HOCKEY HEAD COACH

Sunday, however, saw the Pandas with a rejuvenated focus, communicating on the pitch better than in previous games this season. The Pandas held their own against the Dinos in the first half and battled against their lofty opponents, but in the end gave

up one corner penalty shot too many.

"I think we played 100 per cent better in [Sunday]'s game compared to yesterday, even though the score isn't really indicative of how well we played," Sloboda said. "It's a little bit hard to deal with considering that we did make quite a lot of improvements in our Sunday match."

The two losses this weekend leave the Pandas in last place in the CIS West conference and 10 points behind the division leaders Victoria Vikes, quickly losing traction on any hopes of a national championship appearance.

Despite claiming the silver medal last year at nationals, next weekend's matches against the UBC Thunderbirds will be pivotal for the Green and Gold if they hope to qualify for the final tournament during the first weekend in November.

"We are behind the eight ball and we need to focus even more in the next week if we want to have a shot at making nationals," Sloboda noted.

"We still have to believe that we can accomplish our goals for the season. It's an uphill battle, but our program has proven that we don't have a difficult time facing adversity in the past. We just think that we need to tighten up even more, take that extra step, and work for that extra inch to get the results that we want."

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FILE PHOTO: PETE YEE

# Pandas dismantle shocked Dinos

## rugbyroundup

### Pandas vs. Calgary

RYAN LOTSBERG  
Sports Writer

The Pandas rugby team opened their season Friday by closing the door on the Calgary Dinos. The Pandas showed that they are hungry for more this season by feasting upon the Dinos in a 78-0 romp.

The Pandas, who finished in second spot in the Canada West conference and just out of the CIS tournament last year, came at Calgary with a balanced attack from both sides of the field in a total team effort that saw nine different Pandas score tries in the game, including four from Karlee Carbert and two each from Louise Chavarie and Erika Strande.

Calgary had a couple of short-lived attacks, but they were unable to keep

any sort of sustained pressure against the powerful Pandas, who spent the vast majority of the game deep within Dinos territory.

"The girls played really well today. You come into the first game and you just want to get off to a good start. A win is nice, but we actually played some good rugby today, so I was pretty happy" head coach Matt Parrish said after the game.

Although the team is off to a good start, Parrish knows that this was just the first step towards the team's high expectations for the rest of the season.

"Our goal is really to keep building as the games go on. We're realistic that to win Canada West, we'll have to topple Lethbridge, who are the reigning champions; and luckily we get them right at the end. So hopefully if we keep building on our performances [...] we play our best game when we need to" Parrish said.

A dedication to improvement and a team full of returning players has the Pandas primed for a run at the Canada West Championship this season. They will need to play their best game later this month when they face the defending Canada West champion University of Lethbridge Pronghorns; the southern Alberta team has the top rugby program in the country, with four Canada West titles and three CIS championships since 2003.

Until then, the Pandas have two more chances to improve upon their near-perfect performance against the Dinos on the road to national glory. The team will head on the road to British Columbia to take on UBC and the University of Victoria this coming weekend, before a bye during the Thanksgiving break. They will then take on the Longhorns on October 17, the weekend before the Canada West Championships at the end of October.

# Atlantic CFL dream faces major obstacles

RYAN LOTSBERG

Sports  
Commentary



The idea of a CFL team in the Maritimes is a possibility once again after a successful regular season game in Moncton this weekend, where the Edmonton Eskimos took won 25-6 against the Toronto Argonauts.

However, despite the result and sold-out attendance, the league is still questioning the idea of opening an expansion team in any of the Atlantic provinces. Even though the event sold out in a mere 32 hours, CFL commissioner Mark Cohon cautions that "possibility" is the key word and it should stay that way until more thought is put into the bid.

The league feels that expanding into the east coast would give it the right to call itself a truly Canadian league because every region would have representation — this idea is laughable. Victoria and St. John's don't have teams, so the league doesn't have teams from coast to coast. Furthermore, Edmonton is the northern-most team in the league. One look at a map shows that Canada goes slightly further north than Edmonton.

If the CFL wants to use that logic, a city like Yellowknife might get

consideration for an expansion team as well. Every city in Canada does not need a team in order for the league to be called Canadian. The House of Commons has a regionally disproportionate number of seats due to the uneven distribution of the population. Does this make the government un-Canadian? Of course not. The CFL is a truly Canadian league because every team is in Canada and the league uses rules that are unique to Canada.

The second reason that the league wants to have a team in the Maritimes is due to the recent announcement that the CFL is returning to Ottawa for a third stint in 2013. A 10th team in Moncton would return stability and balance to the divisions and the schedule. It would also create more jobs and much more competition as well as less familiarity between teams. These are reasons that make sense for this type of expansion. However, the league must exercise caution before entering a market as small as Moncton because failure arises when things are done for the wrong reasons.

Moncton has a population of more than 126,000 people. A market of this size seems destined to fail, but size isn't everything in the CFL. Toronto, with a population of 5.1 million, is home to the league's least profitable franchise. The smallest market in the league, Regina, is home to the Saskatchewan Roughriders, who happen to be the CFL's most profitable franchise. Success has found the Riders because of their regional appeal and the support of local

Regina fans who make up 85 per cent of the team's season ticket sales. Moncton would have to rely on massive local support and the 1.3 million people that lie between them and Halifax in order to have a successful franchise. Halifax has three times the population of Moncton, but is not being considered for a team because nobody has taken the initiative to champion the cause. In contrast, the municipal and provincial governments in New Brunswick have been enthusiastic about the idea of the CFL in Moncton.

Ottawa is getting a team in 2013 not only because of the untapped 1.1-million person market of it boasts, but because they are going to be able to re-vamp the desolate Lansdowne Park with an active CFL team.

Moncton's biggest obstacle is getting a suitably sized stadium; they will have to build one that could hold 25,000 people. An investor or group would have to put forth approximately \$75 million to build such a stadium. It is unknown whether the corporate support needed for such an investment exists in a small city like Moncton.

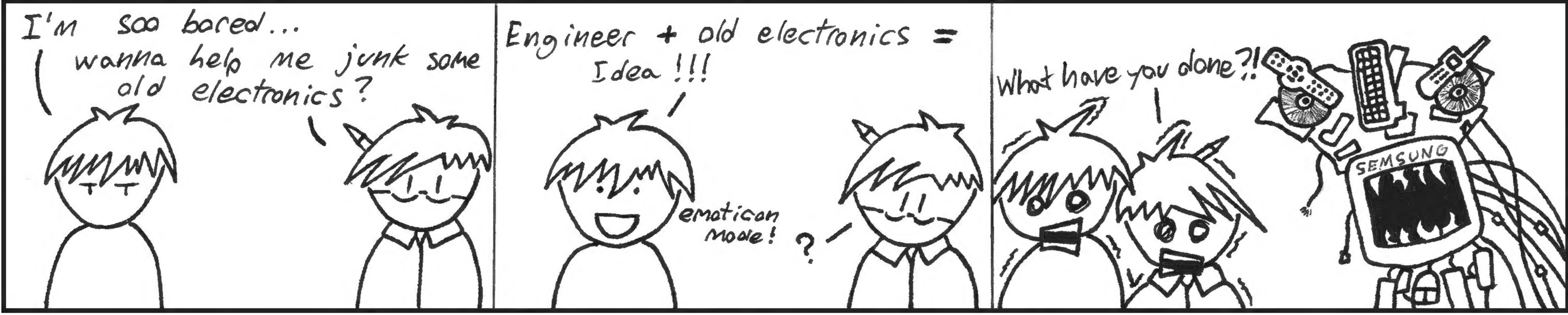
In order for this expansion into the Maritimes to occur, a lot of big things need to happen in a very small place. Expanding into a market that has failed twice in the past and into a very small market for the wrong reasons could have any number of results, but if the league finds success in Ottawa and Moncton, the state of the CFL would be at an all-time high.



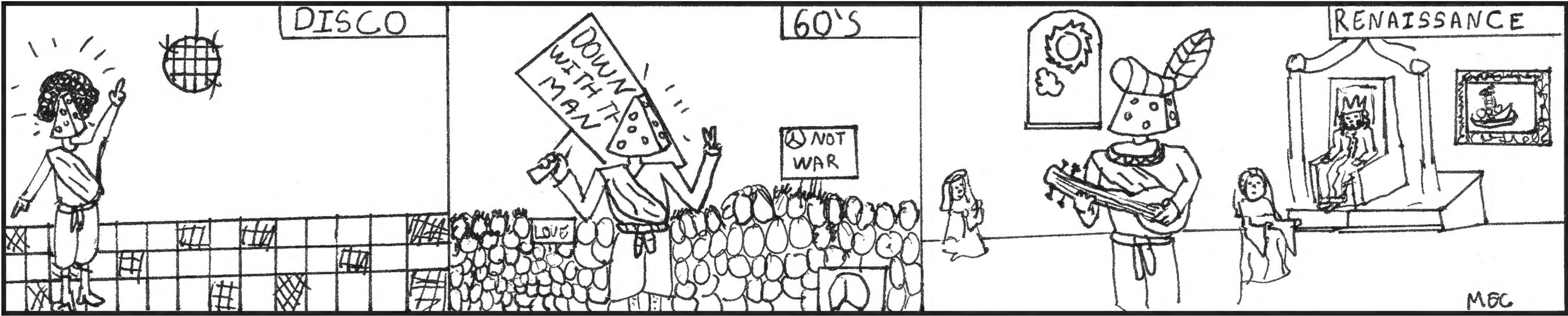
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6				5			2	1
2	1			4			3	
			7		6	2	4	
			2	6		9		4
5			6				8	9
		3		5		7	1	
			8	3	7		6	
		6				4		9
4	5				1			7

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